

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 (ISO) W

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R 231107Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2429

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2490

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES FOR SUDAN

REF: A. KHARTOUM 2215, B. KHARTOUM 2300, C. KHARTOUM 2481

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED MORNING AUG 23 SECOND FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE, DATED AUG 22, REGARDING C-130 REQUEST. NOTE REFERS TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF AUG 3 (IN WHICH WE INDICATED THAT ADDITIONAL DETAILS REQUIRED REGARDING REASONS FOR REQUEST AND WHETHER FMS TRANSACTION PROPOSED). FONMIN NOTE THEN REFERS TO "SALE" OF SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT AND PROVIDES FOLLOWING INFORMATION: "TYPE RECOMMENDED-HERCULES C-130 H. MEDIUM/ LONG RANGE COMBAT TRANSPORT A/C WITH FOUR TURBO-PROP ENGINES (POWER 4190 EHP EACH ENGINE) WITH A PAYLOAD OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY TONS CAN FULFILL VARIOUS TASKS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION OF TROOPS, PARA DROPPING AND CASUALTY EVACUATION WITH SHORT TAKE OFF AND LANDING CAPABILITIES." GOS NOTE THEN FOLLOWS WITH SENTENCE TO EFFECT THAT IT HOPES THIS INFO WILL ANSWER EMBASSY'S QUERIES AS TO SPECIFICATION AND PROJECTED USES.

2. COMMENT: MOST RECENT GOS NOTE APPARENTLY PROVIDES REQUIRED INFO RE SPECIFIC TYPE OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED AND REASONS FOR REQUEST. NOTE DOES NOT SPECIFY WHETHER FMS OR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS ENVISAGED, BUT UPON REREADING

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FONMIN NOTE OF AUG 1 (REF B), IT CLEARLY STATES THAT GOS

WISHES PURCHASE C-130 AIRCRAFT "UNDER FMS PROGRAM". IT WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE, THAT, IN FACT, GOS HAS, WHEN BOTH NOTES ARE TAKEN TOGETHER, PROVIDED INFO WHICH STATE 183582, PARA 5, SPECIFIES AS REQUIRED.

3. THIS, THEN, POSES QUESTION OF WHETHER GOS IS ELIGIBLE TO MAKE PURCHASE UNDER FMS PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO STATE 203863 USG PROCEEDING WITH PAPERWORK NECESSARY TO MAKE SUDAN ELIGIBLE FOR FMS SALES WHICH WOULD COVER TRAINING. DOES THIS ACTIVITY APPLY TO C-130 REQUEST AS WELL?

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADVISE WHETHER IT WISHES EMBASSY TAKE ANY SPECIFIC ACTION IN RESPONSE TO LATEST GOS NOTE ON C-130 REQUEST OR ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF MILITARY SALES IN LIGHT REF C. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED LATEST STATUS AND OUTLOOK RE SUDAN'S ELIGIBILITY TO PURCHASE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT UNDER FMS.
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